



**Virginia Indian Advisory Board
Recognition Workgroup
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm

Location: Virtual – Google Meet

Committee Members Present:

**Buck
Brad
Pam
Greg
David**

Committee Members Absent:

Non-Members in Attendance: (note members of the public)

**Bill Hurd
Chief Terry Price
Gary Price
Annette Price
P. Angelo
Brandon Custalow
Cami Adkins
Suzanne Holland**

Committee Business: (what was discussed) new business, existing initiatives, general discussion, etc.

- Old Business

- Discussion of April 18 minutes that were taken by Pam and Suzanne and how/who will take minutes. Perhaps a community member volunteer and is this acceptable? Push the decision back on the VIAB to identify and appoint a recorder. Greg motions for this and Brad seconds. Motion passes. This will be communicated back to the VIAB. Buck motions to accept Pam's version of minutes, Greg seconds. Suzanne suggests that workgroup uses Pam's version as official version. Buck moves to accept and merge Suzanne's minutes with Pam's and he will take on task of merging them. David abstains from vote since he was not at attendance in that meeting. Pam seconds the motion. Motion passes.
- Workgroup evaluation briefs discussion. Buck has not circulated the criteria evaluations yet, but has also not received all yet. David said he will get his



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evaluations together and submit them soon. Buck said he would circulate draft of combined comments to the work group before sending them out.

- **Communication with Petitioner.** Will be getting a letter out that addresses Criteria 1-3, as an official record.
- **New Business**
 - **Discussion of Criterion 4.** Summary of what is written in posted criterion.
 - **Discussion of evidence for Criterion 4.**
 - **Pam:** looks straightforward in terms of genealogy. How does Wolf Creek do rolls in terms of active/inactive. Are you born a member? Mainly related to children on rolls. Chickahominy tend to be adults, not children as enrolled members.
 - **David:** Are we going to make a conclusion in terms of what it means to be a member of the historic group, specifically the Cherokee? No Wolf Creek members appear in Cherokee records. Are we comparing their ancestry to existing documents of individuals that we know are Cherokee from documentation.
 - **Greg:** was looking for historical connection to Cherokee to create sense of community. No genealogical evidence that connects to Cherokee ancestors in 19th century rolls. Between Civil War and WWII there is a context of white people latching onto Cherokee ancestry to lay claim to land once occupied by Cherokee. He's not seeing connection to historical Cherokee.
 - **David:** Is looking for three things 1) how people are identified in US Census records (these people identified as white), dismisses Plecker defense here. 2) Also looking for if these people are identified in any record created while living as Cherokee (nobody is). 3) Are they related to anybody in the Cherokee tribe (there is no relationship).
 - **Buck:** suggests looking into Milam, specifically John Milam and his relationship to Jesse B. Milam, chief of Cherokee Nation.
 - **David:** Comparing petitioner genealogy to chief Milam's genealogy suggests the Milam ancestor is not Cherokee, but white, as Jesse Milam's Cherokee blood comes through mother's line.
 - **Buck:** a discussion of English names in Cherokee lines. Question about Arkeelooke reference in Levi Lewis lineage as it relates to Roark. Perhaps the petitioner should try to expand upon the Arkeelooke reference because it's unusual. Did they meet the criterion as written? Is the quality of the genealogical work good?
 - **David:** believes intent is tracing Indian heritage, but as a genealogy what is presented is messy, but he was able to follow it until around 1840s. Yes, met requirement as written, not going on intent, just needs a little cleanup.



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- **Buck:** a narrative of community in Criterion 3 would help to bolster this genealogy to provide context to marriage partners, descent, folk identities, multiple ancestries, proximity to Cherokee, etc. Finding historical names on record in this region would be unusual, particularly names of specific tribes as opposed to just “Indian.”
- **Greg:** Lumbee identity and relation to Wolf Creek identity. Few to no references to Cherokee in Virginia.
- **David:** no real recognition of Cherokee by Virginia tribes until latter part of last century. Very concerning that only one ancestor applied for Miller roll among Wolf Creek and they were rejected. Connection to Cherokee origin is missing.
- **Buck:** Mooney’s fliers identify Cherokees in far western North Carolina and near southwest Virginia, maybe worth checking out. Cross-checked with Monacan names. Perhaps check David Bushnell’s records from the early 1900s. Check to see if other Virginian’s applied from Wolf Creek counties and if they have social connections to the petitioners. Relationship with Cherokee in 20th century with going to high school in Cherokee, NC. Perhaps worth checking out preliminary and final determination documents for BIA petitions for arguments and types of data to include in petition. Requests work group members to write a paragraph on this criterion.
- **David:** notes that this is one extended family, is a family a tribe?, suggests there should be multiple families with more than one ancestor. Having a single family is a detriment to the petition’s success, though there may be multiple tribes in Virginia that have this issue.
- **Public comment**
 - **Bill Hurd:** looking forward to addressing letter for 1-3. References Bible’s 12 tribes of Israel descended from a single ancestor. Appreciates the comments of the work group.
 - **Annette Price:** Addresses kinship in tribe and children’s inclusion in tribal rolls. Offers more detailed biographies on people and how people self-identified and lived. Cherokee had different names for groups, but may not have appeared in writing. Wolf Creek as reference to geography to differentiate from eastern band or Cherokee from Oklahoma, for an example.
 - **Chief Price:** If you have any questions send them to us and we can get you the answers.
- **Announcements and polling for next meeting**
 - **Buck:** New head of NPS speaking at W&M on 4/28 in the late afternoon with reception. He is the first indigenous person to take on that position in NPS.



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- **Greg: Giving a virtual talk at Fountain Bookstore on Wed, May 4, 6-7 pm about two-spirit histories. Reclaiming Two Spirits.**
<https://www.fountainbookstore.com/smithersbronski050422>
- **Next Meeting May 16, 6-8 pm**
- **Meeting adjourned 7:51 pm**